

**Minutes
of the
Tobacco Settlement Revenue Oversight Committee
June 14, 2006
Santa Fe**

The first meeting of the Tobacco Settlement Revenue Oversight Committee (TSROC) was called to order on June 14, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 311, State Capitol, by Representative Gail Chasey, co-chair.

Present

Rep. Gail Chasey, co-chair
Sen. Mary Jane M. Garcia, co-chair
Sen. John T.L. Grubescic
Rep. Danice Picraux
Sen. John C. Ryan
Rep. Gloria C. Vaughn

Absent

Advisory Members

Sen. Rod Adair
Rep. Ray Begaye
Sen. Joseph J. Carraro
Sen. Linda M. Lopez
Rep. Teresa A. Zanetti

Sen. Dede Feldman
Sen. James G. Taylor
Rep. Luciano "Lucky" Varela

Staff

Ramona Schmidt
Cristina Martinez

Representative Chasey welcomed all attendees to the TSROC meeting and asked the members of the committee and support staff to introduce themselves.

The proposed dates for the upcoming TSROC meetings were reviewed by committee members. Because of conflicting dates with the Legislative Finance Committee, the committee requests the July 14 meeting be changed to September 8 and the September 29 meeting be changed to October 6 in order to allow Representative Varela to attend the TSROC meetings.

Ramona Schmidt reviewed the proposed work plan with the committee members. Committee members proposed adding monitoring the transition within the Attorney General's office after the election of a new attorney general (AG). The committee asked that the presentation by staff from the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) include review of the status of the Tobacco Settlement Permanent Fund.

Other proposed topics to add to upcoming sessions include:
September meeting items:

- presentation and history of past recommendations to TSROC program by Cleo Griffith; and
- UNM/IAC/DOH/LRRI program funding/measurements/RFP process/future request discussion on smokeless tobacco;

October meeting items:

- AG presentation/update on tobacco settlement agreement/transition to new AG;
- concerns by pueblos/tribes with tobacco sales — Pam Ray;
- DFA status of Tobacco Settlement Permanent Fund — Melissa Vigil; and
- TSROC review of proposed program funding for fiscal year 2008.

Bob Barberousse, the lobbyist for the Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute (LRRI), informed committee members that there had been a language change late in the 2006 legislative session to House Bill 2 affecting its fiscal year 2007 recommendations for funding from the Tobacco Settlement Permanent Fund and resulting in money originally designated for LRRI to remain in the UNM Health Sciences Center. Mr. Barberousse clarified that original language in House Bill 2 included funding of \$4.4 million to the UNM Health Sciences Center, of which \$1 million was for "research and clinical care programs in lung and tobacco-related illnesses" but was changed during conference committee to read "for instruction and general purposes". A meeting was held March 9 between Dr. Roth, his staff, Dr. Rubin from LRRI, Mr. Barberousse and Edmundo Gonzales at which Dr. Rubin took the position that he was under a mandate to use the money, as he interpreted the legislation, for funding uncompensated care. Committee members inquired if there had been an offer to share the funds between LRRI and UNM. Mr. Barberousse stated that to date there had been no such offer.

Committee members noted the initial reason for funding the LRRI research through UNM was to avoid the anti-donation clause. Senator Lopez recommended that a letter be sent from the committee to Dr. Roth addressing the committee's concern regarding this issue and requesting Dr. Roth to reconsider the action that will result in no funding from Tobacco Settlement Permanent Fund to LRRI. Concern was raised that the funding is specific to tobacco-related issues and the funding of uncompensated care to UNM does not fall under this directive. Motion was made, seconded and unanimously adopted to send a letter to Dr. Roth from the committee as proposed by Senator Lopez.

Having no further business, the committee adjourned at 12:00 noon.